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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY India

SUBJECT Conditions in Kaerabani Area

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Kaerabani is located on the edge of the Ganges Valley plain. The area is jugged with hills of an elevation from 1500 to 2000 feet. The housing is the typical poor Indian type and water is secured from public wells in the village. The local mission has its own wells but the water is boiled.
2. This is a "surplus" area, which produces more rice than it needs to satisfy its own requirements. It is an irrigated area and irrigation pumps were distributed for half-price in an effort to increase production. However, the government employees who handled the project didn't know how to distribute them to best advantage and couldn't show how to set them up properly. There are a lot of government agricultural employees but none of them are really trained properly in their work.
3. There are several airstrips nearby (built by US troops during World War II) which are not being really maintained, but over which all traffic is prohibited. Roads, though not good, are generally better than immediately after independence; more money and time is being spent on roads than ever before. The railroad is well maintained and was not washed out any of the time during the July to October rainy season in 1952. Schedules are fairly well maintained. Mail delivery is once a day; Calcutta newspapers are received the date that appears on them or sometimes the day after (but they may be pre-dated). Mail is transmitted via rail, bus and finally runner.
4. Public vaccinators are always on call and a village in which smallpox or other diseases break out is immediately immunized to control the disease. Cholera and typhoid prevention measures are taken. Antibiotics are readily available, no prescription required. A leprosy colony was being established in the area and fine work had been started under the Ghandi Memorial Fund administered through the government. However, politics, greed and corruption have entered into this work and the last I knew, the capable man in charge had resigned.

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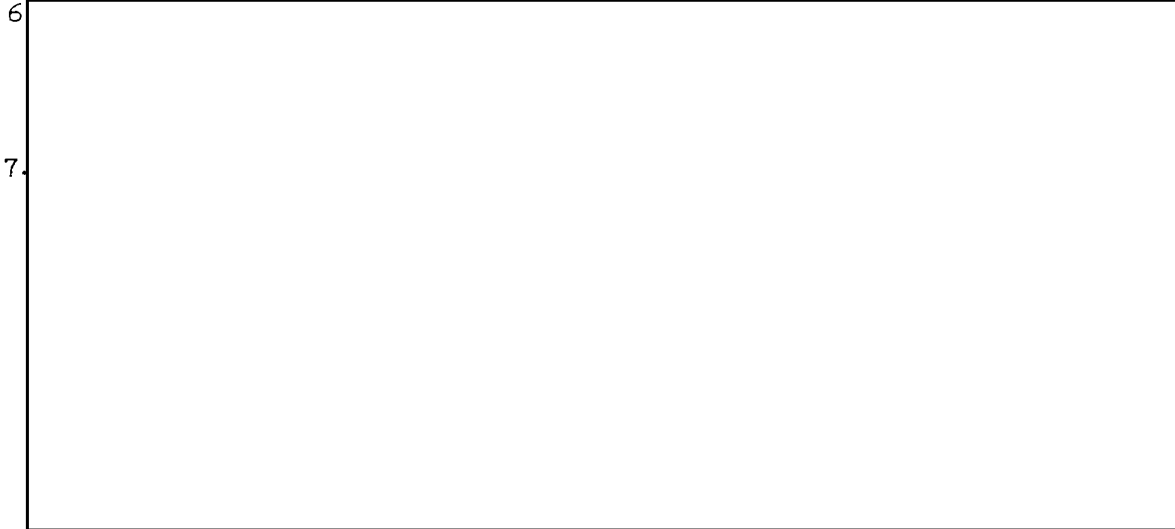
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5. Schools in the Kaerabani area are very poor. For those who do start school, the average age at which schooling ends is 10 or 11. Special classes called "social studies" which teach children how to conserve natural resources are being conducted in the mission schools now, although they are still only in the planning stage as far as the public schools are concerned. In the mission school, some correspondence between the boys and the Communists in Calcutta was found. However, nothing was done about it, and when letters were received by the boys asking for dues, the correspondence died out.



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